



Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup Set for April 28

The 26th Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup will take place Saturday, April 28th at 30 sites along the Texas Gulf Coast.

"Join us for a great time and a good cause—keeping Texas beaches beautiful," said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson.

A total of 30 cleanup sites are on board for the event and range from Beaumont all the way down to Brownsville. Volunteers can register online now at www.texasadoptabeach.org or may sign in the morning of April 28th at any of 29 check-in sites between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Volunteers must pre-register for the St. Jo Island location, as reservations are required due to limited access. Volunteers for St. Jo Island will check in on April 28th at 8 a.m. at Fisherman's Wharf, 900 Tarpon St., in Port Aransas. A complete list of sites can be found on page 7.

Texans who are not able to attend the cleanup can help keep their beaches clean by making a tax-deductible donation online at www.texasadoptabeach.org. There are several different sponsorship levels ranging from \$25 to \$25,000, allowing both individuals and corporations to contribute to this major cleanup effort.

Each volunteer will be given data cards, gloves, pencils and trash bags. All volunteers are advised to wear closed-toe shoes and bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water.

The Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program originated in the fall of 1986, when 2,800 volunteers picked up


124 tons of trash. Since then, more than 423,000 volunteers have removed 8,100 tons of trash from Texas beaches.

The Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program is an all-volunteer effort to remove trash from Texas beaches and waterways and increase public awareness of the problems of marine debris and beach litter. Twice each year, volunteers check in at sites along the coast to pick up trash.

Statewide coastal cleanups are held every spring and fall and always fall on the fourth Saturday in both April and September.

Volunteers record data on the trash to learn more about the causes of marine debris and to help mitigate pollution along Texas' 367 miles of coastline. The data collected from beach cleanups played an integral role in the passage of MARPOL Annex V, an international treaty that prohibits the dumping of plastics in the world's oceans. In July 1991, the International Maritime Organization designated the Gulf of Mexico and the Wider Caribbean as a "special area" where the dumping of trash, with the exception of finely ground food scraps, is prohibited.

Statewide sponsors for the Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup are HNTB, the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund, Newfield Foundation, NOAA Marine Debris Program and Keep Texas Beautiful.

To learn more about how you can get involved or for additional information on the Adopt-A-Beach Program, please visit our website at www.texasadoptabeach.org or call 1-877-TXCOAST. 

Don't Forget

Pick a site and register online or contact the site coordinator.

Wear sunscreen, shoes, sunglasses and a hat.

Bring plenty of drinking water and mosquito repellent.

Check in by 9 a.m.

Do not disturb the habitat of nesting shorebirds.

For your safety, stay off the dunes.

Don't pick up hazardous materials. Avoid items such as

hypodermic needles and sharp objects.

Check our website for a list of hotels along the coast that offer special rates for Adopt-A-Beach volunteers.

We'll clean rain or shine!

Winner gets ACL tickets, tour of Troublemaker Studios and class party at Schlitterbahn High School Students Compete to Create Anti-Litter PSA



A 30-second video depicting how litter can make its way to the Texas coast might just be the big break for some Central Texas high school filmmaker.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson is calling for entries to the Trash Travels High School PSA contest. All entries

must be exactly 30 seconds long and based on the theme: Trash travels. The winning entry will be aired on YNN, Time Warner Cable's 24-hour local news channel.

"The idea of this contest is to get kids thinking about how trash travels," Patterson said. "Litter in Central Texas can make its way to the Gulf Coast, where we organize thousands of volunteers through the Adopt-A-Beach Program to pick it up."

The contest is open for any Texas student in grades 9-12 who lives in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Llano, Lee, Travis or Williamson coun-

ties. Entries will be judged on the effectiveness of the message, creativity, educational aspects and uniqueness.

First place will receive a private tour of Robert Rodriguez's Troublemaker Studio in Austin, two 3-Day 2012 ACL Tickets, and a class party to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels. Second place will receive four passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels and four Austin Paddlesport (SUP ATX) passes, and third place will receive two passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels and two Austin Paddlesport (SUP ATX) passes. In addition, the winning entry will be aired on YNN and posted to YNN's website (see official contest rules for details). All three winners will be posted on the Adopt-A-Beach website.

All entries must be received by April 2, 2012. Late submissions will not be accepted. Winners will be announced in mid-April.

For additional information on the Adopt-A-Beach Program, or to participate in the next cleanup visit www.texasadoptabeach.org. You may also call the Texas General Land Office toll free at 1-877-TX-COAST.

For more contest details, rules and an entry form, visit www.texasadoptabeach.org.

Support the Texas Coast



Show your support for the Texas coast all year long by purchasing the official Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach specialty license plate. For every plate sale, the Adopt-A-Beach Program receives a direct benefit that will help the program continue to grow, reduce litter on Texas beaches, and provide coastal environmental education to our youth.

The plate costs \$30 in addition to regular vehicle fees, with \$22 earmarked for the Texas coastline. Personalized plates are also available for an extra \$40. In addition, the cost of purchasing the plate is considered a tax-deductible donation from you.

You can also make a direct tax-deductible donation online at texasadoptabeach.org, with sponsorship levels ranging from \$25 to \$25,000 for individuals or corporations.

For more information,
texasadoptabeach.org or 1-877-TXCOAST



Adopt-A-Beach Marine Debris Summit Targets Trash on Texas Beaches



Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson speaks at the Marine Debris Summit in Galveston.

Most beach trash used to come from oceangoing vessels, until an international treaty—helped by data from the Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program—alleviated the problem. But in recent years data from beach cleanups shows a growing trend of thoughtless littering by beachgoers, leaving behind beer cans, cigarette butts and even dirty diapers.

In response, the General Land Office recently sponsored the first Adopt-A-Beach Marine Debris Summit, held on January 13 at Galveston's Moody Gardens.

"It was a great day. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the summit, the speakers and the facility," said AAB Coordinator Renee Tuggle, in charge of organizing the event.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson spoke at the gathering, as did world-renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle, Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society. Earle said the oceans are burdened with more trash than ever; she even sees it on the seafloor during deep-sea dives.

An elite group of Adopt-A-Beach cleanup site coordinators converged on the Moody Gardens event to

receive additional training, such as dealing with the news media. Veteran and rookie coordinators shared ideas and took full advantage of issue-based networking opportunities.

Panel discussions were held on topics such as littering by folks who drive on the beach — a protected Texas tradition — as well as the growing dirty diaper phenomenon.

The summit was a great opportunity for the public to meet with marine debris researchers, natural resource managers, policy makers, industry representatives, university students and anyone else who wants to see Texas beaches at their best.

The Adopt-A-Beach Program has organized volunteer cleanups of Texas beaches for the past 25 years. Each year, thousands of volunteers band together to remove about 500 tons of marine debris from Texas beaches.

The Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Program is funded primarily by private contributions. To help out, or for more information, call 1-877-TXCOAST or visit the website at <http://www.texasadoptabeach.org>.



The Land Office team that organized and ran the Marine Debris Summit celebrates the conclusion of the highly successful event.

Welcome to the Program!

The Adopt-A-Beach Program is pleased to welcome the following new site coordinators:



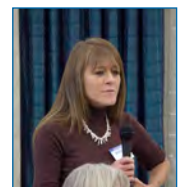
Mike Mullenweg
 Mustang Island State Park
 Port Aransas



Angela Gonzalez
 Cole Park
 Corpus Christi



Mary Kathryn Smith
 Palacios



Jan Dicharry
 Sea Rim State Park
 Sabine Pass

This program wouldn't be possible without incredible volunteers like you!



Adopt-A-Beach Hosts Coordinator Workshop



Angela Gonzalez practices giving a television interview.

In mid-January, Adopt-A-Beach volunteer site coordinators attended a two-day workshop at Moody Gardens on Galveston Island. Thanks to a Cycle 16 Coastal Management Program grant, the Adopt-A-Beach Program was able to get its volunteer coordinators together for the much needed training and networking opportunity.

The first day was devoted to training on a variety of topics, including changes to the Adopt-A-Beach Program, International Coastal Cleanup data reporting tools, the impact of data reporting, and dealing with the news media. Texas General Land Office staff members presented most of the training, but Nicholas Mallos, of the Ocean Conservancy, really caught coordinators' attention with the use of cleanup data to change manufacturing and packaging of common retail goods.



Coordinators Lana Yawn, Vickie Cleveland and Patti Kahla with their monofilament line recycling bins.

For example, volunteers at beach cleanups were finding marine animals tangled in six-pack rings, prompting the leading manufacture, ITW Hi Cone, to make a safer product. The company created a photo-degradable plastic ring that breaks down just a few weeks after exposure to sunlight. It further breaks down with the movement of waves and wind, and an entangled animal's movements. ITW Hi Cone also designed the rings to split in half easily, reducing threats to wildlife, such as seals, that might come in contact with them.

Another manufacturer, the Coca-Cola Company, launched the first-ever 100 percent recyclable PET plastic beverage bottle made partially from plants. The PlantBottle™ packaging is made with up to 30 percent plant-based materials by using an innovative process that turns sugar cane and molasses into a key component of PET, which reduces its carbon impact and minimizes dependency on non-renewable materials.

The Coca-Cola Company—a global partner of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup—continues to explore the use of other plant materials for future bottles, with an emphasis on recycling.



Coordinators learning about the importance of data collection.

The day wrapped up with all the coordinators building and assembling monofilament line recycling bins for their communities. John O'Connell with Texas Sea Grant did a presentation on a monofilament line recovery and recycling program he started for Matagorda County, and which has now spread along the coast and statewide. The program has volunteers who recover fishing line and send it to Berkley, a leading supplier of fishing tackle that recycles the line. Since 1990, the Berkley Conservation Institute has recycled more than 9 million miles of fishing line—enough to fill two reels for every angler in America.

The workshop gave coordinators a chance to share ideas and they all took full advantage of issue-based networking opportunities.

On the second day, the coordinators attended the first Marine Debris Summit sponsored by the Adopt-A-Beach Program. The day was filled with marine debris experts talking about ways to change behaviors of those who litter our shores.

It was a two-day inspirational and motivational conference that was just what the coordinators and Land Office staff needed to move forward and plan the Spring Cleanup. 🌊



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Fall Cleanup Wrap-up

More volunteers picked up less trash at the 25th Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup held Saturday, September 24th, 2011, prompting speculation that after 25 years, Texans are starting to get the message.

"Despite an amazing turnout, we picked up 20 percent less trash than in the fall of 2010," said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. "From Sabine Pass to Boca Chica, there was just less trash to be picked up. I think people get it: Trashing Texas Beaches isn't Cool."

A total of 9,133 volunteers picked up 136 tons of trash from 28 sites along 180 miles of the Texas coast.

Volunteers reported finding fewer unusual items. Aside from a jock strap on South Padre Island, some Vietnamese toothpaste on Galveston Island, a pornographic video tape at Surfside and some Costa Rican coins in Calhoun County, volunteers mostly picked up a pedestrian mixture of cigarette butts and beer cans and other common items left behind by careless beachgoers.

The Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup is held in conjunction with the annual International Coastal Cleanup—the world's largest volunteer effort to remove coastal litter. The International Coastal Cleanup event is put on by a volunteer organization based out of Washington, D.C. called the Ocean Conservancy. This group's mission is to improve the health of the oceans by encouraging civic involvement and education. Ocean Conservancy works to alert the world about the trash polluting our waterways and oceans.

Top Ten Debris Items Collected in Texas		
Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters	35,737	18.16%
Caps/Lids	30,901	15.71%
Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	17,379	8.83%
Bags (Plastic)	16,230	8.25%
Food Wrappers/ Containers	12,540	6.37%
Beverage Cans	9,995	5.08%
Cups/Plates	9,560	4.86%
Forks/Knives/Spoons		
Straws/Stirrers	8,234	4.18%
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	6,780	3.45%
Rope	6,210	3.16%

The success of the Adopt-A-Beach Program is made possible not only by the generous efforts of thousands of volunteers, but through the generous donations of community leaders and sponsors statewide. The lead statewide sponsor for the 25th Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup was Shell Oil Company. Other sponsors included HNTB Corporation, El Paso Corporation, Halliburton, AkzoNobel Surface Chemistry LLC, LyondellBasell, and the Ocean Conservancy. 🌊

Coastal Bend Cleanup Nets More Than 3 Tons

Cigarette butts, beer cans, dirty diapers and more—volunteers at the February 11th Winter Beach Cleanup picked up more than three tons of trash from Coastal Bend beaches.

A total of 261 volunteers focused their efforts on Corpus Christi Beach at the Texas State Aquarium, Port Aransas beaches and at Padre Island National Seashore. The most trash, about 3,500 pounds worth, was picked up at Corpus Christi Beach. The cleanups at Padre Island National Seashore and Port Aransas found 1,375 pounds of trash and 1,250 pounds, respectively.

Odd items found by the beachcombers included a dock line from a large ship and an old boot.

The Coastal Bend Winter Cleanup is one of three all-volunteer seasonal cleanups coordinated by the Adopt-A-Beach Program. 🌊



A young girl and her grandfather picking up trash at the Coastal Bend Winter Cleanup.



March 2012



Adopt-A-Beach Honors Site Coordinators

After a day of meeting fellow volunteers and exchanging valuable “how-to” ideas, Adopt-A-Beach site coordinators were on the receiving end of some well-deserved appreciation at the January Coordinators Workshop and Marine Debris Summit at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Site and media coordinators gathered for a casual evening of food, music and friendship, and most importantly, public recognition for their efforts.

“Our volunteers are what make the Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program one of the largest, most successful volunteer efforts in the nation,” said Renee Tuggle, state Adopt-A-Beach coordinator. “Whether they’re handing out trash bags by the thousands or on a 5 a.m. television interview, I can always count on our Adopt-A-Beach coordinators to turn out the crowds and keep the cleanups running safe and smooth.”

Several site coordinators have been with the Adopt-A-Beach Program for many years. Refugio County site coordinator Dwight Mutschler was honored for being the longest serving volunteer, with 25 years of keeping Texas beaches clean—that’s more than 50 cleanups. Monica Vela, site coordinator for Cameron County, has been with Adopt-A-Beach for 22 years and organizes not only spring and fall cleanups, but the popular Winter Texan Cleanup each February



Adopt-A-Beach site coordinators.

with her colleague Javier Mendez. New site volunteers were also recognized.

Coordinators were presented personalized awards for their service. After the recognition ceremony, site and media coordinators gathered to be photographed and were treated to the singing of Adopt-A-Beach media coordinator and popular Tejano singer Linda Escobar, a Texas General Land Office employee.

“Adopt-A-Beach is a great organization to be associated with and it’s really nice to receive a high five for our efforts,” said Buzz Botts, site coordinator for the Padre Island National Seashore location. 🐾

Winter Texans Join Forces for Adopt-A-Beach



Winter Texans fan out to pick up trash.

Texans from all over the United States and Canada pitched in Friday, February 10th to haul 6,875 pounds of trash—more than 3.4 tons—from South Padre Island’s Edwin Atwood Park.

A total of 63 volunteers checked in for the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Winter Texan Cleanup, removing more than one ton of trash per mile of beach. Overcast skies with a high in the 60s didn’t deter volunteers from Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Canada, Missouri, South Dakota and New Mexico. Wal-Mart treated volunteers to a continental breakfast before the cleanup.

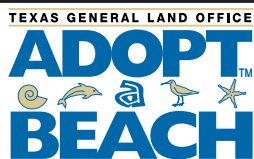
Among the more unusual items found: a box of edible body cream from Hungary, a hypodermic needle, a glass medicine bottle, a roll of wire and a coconut.



Winter Texans comparing data.



A Canadian couple participates in the cleanup.



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Cleanup Sites and Local Coordinators

Sea Rim State Park Jefferson County

Check-in: Park entrance, 10 miles west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87 South
Contact: Tracy Ferguson
409-971-2559
tracy.ferguson@texasadoptabeach.org
Jan Dicharry 409-920-9082
jan.dicharry@texasadoptabeach.org

McFaddin Beach Jefferson County

Check-in: McFaddin Beach entrance
1.9 miles west of Sea Rim State Park
on Hwy. 87
Contact: Mark Guzman
409-896-5555 ext. 135
mark.guzman@texasadoptabeach.org

Chambers County

Check-in: 1 mile east of the intersection
of Highways 124 and 87 at the beach
Contact: Lana Yawn
409-267-2644 or 409-296-8250
lana.yawn@texasadoptabeach.org
Patti Kahla 409-267-1370
or 409-267-2650
Angela Hale 409-267-2647

Horsepen Bayou—Harris County

Check-in: Clear Lake High School,
2929 Bay Area Blvd.
Contact: Andrew Schaafs 832-818-1381
andrew.schaafs@texasadoptabeach.org

Seabrook—Harris County

Check-in: Hwy. 146 north side of Clear
Creek under bridge on Seabrook city side
Contact: Rex Ward 281-910-8774
rex.ward@texasadoptabeach.org

Bolivar Peninsula Galveston County

Check-in: Crenshaw Elementary, 416 Hwy
87, about 7 miles from the ferry landing
Contact: Denise Parsons 409-795-1046
denise.parsons@texasadoptabeach.org
Janis Bridgers
janis.bridgers@texasadoptabeach.org
Mary Munro
mary.munro@texasadoptabeach.org

The John M. O'Quinn I-45 Estuarial Corridor & Virginia Point Peninsula Preserve Galveston County

Check-in: Exit 6 off I-45 at Reitan Point
Contact: Evangeline Whorton
409-234-2096 or 409-744-7431
409-789-4996 (cell)
evangeline.whorton@texasadoptabeach.org

Galveston Island Galveston County

Check-in: Menard Park, 27th & Seawall
Blvd.
Contact: Gary Schero or Arielle Brown
409-762-3363
gary.schero@texasadoptabeach.org

Surfside—Brazoria County

Check-in: Stahlman Park, C.R. 257 (Blue-
water Highway)
Contact: James Glover, Brazoria County
Parks Department 979-864-1541
james.glover@texasadoptabeach.org

Quintana, Bryan Beach Brazoria County

Check-in: Quintana Beach County Park,
5th St.
Contact: Patty Brinkmeyer
979-233-1461
patty.brinkmeyer@texasadoptabeach.org

Sargent Beach, Bay City Matagorda County

Check-in: Sargent Beach entrance
Contact: Lamar Brown
Tony Pustejovsky 979-244-6144
lamar.brown@texasadoptabeach.org

Matagorda Beach Matagorda County

Check-in: Matagorda Jetty Park
Contact: Peggy Stanley
979-863-2920 or 979-216-6016 (cell)
peggy.stanley@texasadoptabeach.org

Palacios—Matagorda County

Check-in: Marine Education Center, 102
Marine Center Drive
Contact: Cynthia Garrett
979-532-0797 or 979-533-0808 (cell)
cynthia.garrett@texasadoptabeach.org
Mary Kathryn Smith 361-972-3774
mary.smith@texasadoptabeach.org

Magnolia Beach/Indianola Calhoun County

Check-in: Crabbin' Bridge
Contact: Rhonda Cummins
361-552-9747
rhonda.cummins@texasadoptabeach.org

King Fisher Beach, Port O'Connor Calhoun County

Check-in: Pavilion at King Fisher Beach
Contact: Debbie Gayle
361-552-3200 (daytime)
361-983-4647 (evening)
debbie.gayle@texasadoptabeach.org

Austwell Pier—Refugio County

Check-in: Austwell Pier
Contact: Dwight Mutschler
361-286-3762
austwellredfish@texasadoptabeach.org

Rockport—Aransas County

Check-in: Rockport Beach Park
beachfront pavilion
Contact: Tom Staley
361-729-2213, ext. 226
tom.staley@texasadoptabeach.org

Aransas Pass/Redfish Bay Nueces County

Check-in: Lighthouse Lakes Park, 4 miles
east of Aransas Pass on Hwy. 361
Contact: Richard Gonzales
361-779-7351
richard.gonzales@texasadoptabeach.org

Portland—San Patricio County

Check-in: Sunset Lake Park, 201 Sunset
Drive, adjacent to Highway 181
Contact: Aneita Ortiz-Cedano
361-816-1766
aneita.cedano@texasadoptabeach.org

St. Jo Island/Port Aransas Nueces County

Check-in: 8:00 a.m. – Fisherman's Wharf,
900 Tarpon St.
Contact: Deno Fabrie 361-749-0256
deno.fabrie@texasadoptabeach.org
*Limited access – reservations required

Port Aransas—Nueces County

Check-in: Avenue G at the beach
Contact: Deno Fabrie 361-749-0256
deno.fabrie@texasadoptabeach.org

Mustang Island State Park Corpus Christi—Nueces County

Check-in: 17047 State Hwy. 361
Contact: Mike Mullenweg 361-749-5246
mike.mullenweg@tpwd.state.tx.us

Corpus Christi Beach Nueces County

Check-in: Texas State Aquarium
2710 North Shoreline Blvd.
Contact: Kara Hahn 361-881-1259
kara.hahn@texasadoptabeach.org

Cole Park (Kid's Place), Corpus Christi—Nueces County

Check-in: 1526 Ocean Drive
Contact: Angela Gonzalez 361-826-3673
angela.gonzalez@texasadoptabeach.org

North Padre Island, Corpus Christi—Kleberg County

Check-in: Padre Balli Park Office,
15820 Park Rd. 22
Contact: Jim Needham—Surfrider
Foundation 361-825-2708
james.needham@texasadoptabeach.org
Todd Dwyer 361-853-9877
todd.dwyer@texasadoptabeach.org
Ilene Jantz 361-563-4119
ilene.jantz@texasadoptabeach.org

Padre Island National Seashore Kleberg County

Check-in: Malaquite Visitor Center,
20420 Park Road 22
Contact: William "Buzz" Botts
361-949-8068
buzz.botts@texasadoptabeach.org

Baffin Bay, Riviera Kleberg County

Check-in: Kaufer-Hubert Park, FM 628
Contact: Susan Ivy 361-595-8591
susan.ivy@texasadoptabeach.org

South Padre Island Cameron County Parks—Cameron County

Check-in: Andy Bowie Park,
Access Road #2, Highway 100
Contact: Monica Vela 956-761-5494
Clemente Valdez 956-761-3704
monica.vela@texasadoptabeach.org

South Padre Island City Beaches Cameron County

Check-in: Town Beach Access #3 at Gulf
Blvd. & Palm Street
Contact: Rob Nixon 956-433-1472
rob.nixon@texasadoptabeach.org
Elaine Sanchez 956-761-4596
elaine.sanchez@texasadoptabeach.org

Boca Chica—Cameron County

Check-in: End of Highway 4 at the beach
Contact: Lucy Martinez Hilliard
956-571-4522
lucym.hilliard@texasadoptabeach.org



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The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program Thanks

2012 Spring Cleanup Sponsors



Thanks also to Halliburton, the Harris and Eliza Kempner Foundation,
the Newfield Foundation and NOAA Marine Debris Program.



2011 Fall Cleanup Sponsors



Thanks also to El Paso Corporation, Halliburton,
AkzoNobel Surface Chemistry and LyondellBasell.